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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Majority of Ontarians Support Building Highway 413

According to a new poll conducted for LiUNA, only 28 per cent of Ontarians opposed the highway project with increased support in regions along the route.

TORONTO – A new poll released today shows that the Highway 413 project has 54 per cent support overall across Ontario. The figure grows to 57 per cent in the GTA, the region through which the corridor will be built. Additionally, respondents aged 18-34 showed the most support for the project which seeks to lower commute time by as much as 30 minutes each way.

The poll, commissioned by the Ontario Provincial District Council of the Labourers' International Union of North America (LiUNA) from Sussex Strategy Group, had a sample size of 3,009 respondents who were eligible voters in Ontario and was conducted on April 27th and 28th, 2022 using members of Maru Blue's online panel. Other key findings of the study include widespread awareness about the highway project amongst respondents (57 per cent) and significant regional support in Southwest Ontario (56 per cent), in addition to the GTA. While support for the transit corridor was highest amongst Ontario PC Party supporters, for Ontario Liberal Party voters, 47 percent were in favour while only 39 per cent opposed the project.

"Simply put, Highway 413 is popular – and the poll shows it," said Joseph Mancinelli, LiUNA International Vice President and Regional Manager of Central and Eastern Canada. "A growing region requires reliable infrastructure. Given the many benefits of the project, including creating thousands of job opportunities and building a competitive, prosperous province, we are not shocked to see strong support outlined in the study's findings. We were surprised at the level of support amongst the Liberal Party supporters as, based on previous commentary by party officials, one would have thought a majority opposed the project, when in fact only 39 per cent do."

The Ford government has touted the project and its benefits, including reduced commute times – a critical investment to prepare for forecasted growth. Additionally, the transit corridor will complement the significant investments being made by the government in public transit to create a multi-modal transportation network capable of handling the region's increased population.

"This is a prudent and timely investment into the province's economic recovery," said Jack Oliveira, Business Manager for LiUNA Local 183. "Ontarians worry about the cost of living and rising inflation and many families are still recovering from the COVID-19 recession. This project will create tens of thousands of well-paying jobs and the economic activity that the province needs – and that's what I think we're seeing with this poll."

Highway 413 will run 59 kilometres connecting Highway 400 in Vaughan with the Highways 407 and 401 intersection, and link with Highways 427 and 410 along the way. The province expects it will carry more than 300,000 commuters every day.



Methodology: *This study, commissioned by LiUNA's Ontario Provincial District Council, was conducted between April 27th and April 28th, 2022, among a sample of 3,009 respondents who were eligible voters in Ontario and members of Maru Blue's online panel. For comparison purposes, a probability sample of a similar size would have a margin of error of +/- 1.86%, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The study included respondents from an online panel of Ontarians, 18 years old and older. The sample was weighted to regional, age, and gender demographics, as per Statistics Canada.*

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